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September 13, 2012

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VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 15th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice: Text-to-911 and Framework for Next Generation 911; PS Docket Nos. 11-153, 10-255

Dear Ms. Dortch

On September 11, 2012, Mark A. Stachiw, Vice Chairman, Secretary & General Counsel of MetroPCS Communications, Inc. ("MetroPCS") along with Carl W. Northrop and Jessica DeSimone of Telecommunications Law Professionals PLLC ("TLP"), met with David Turetsky and Patrick Donovan of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Cheryl King of the Disability Rights Office in the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau and Henning Schulzrinne (via teleconference) of the Office of Strategic Planning & Policy Analysis to discuss the above-referenced proceedings. The presentation in the meeting was consistent with the filings that MetroPCS previously has made in this proceeding.

MetroPCS expressed its support in transitioning legacy 911 services to next generation operations, but highlighted its concerns with proposed interim Text-to-911 solutions. MetroPCS outlined several concerns regarding Text-to-911, one of the most significant being that text messages are delivered on a "best efforts basis" and as a result are often delayed in transmission which makes them ill-suited to emergency situations under the current network configuration. MetroPCS also was concerned about the lack of liability protection for wireless carriers that are mandated to participate in a Text-to-911 program.

MetroPCS noted that text messages regularly are delayed on signaling channels and are more likely to be delayed in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane, earthquake or tornado – all instances where an influx of emergency 911 contact is likely to occur. MetroPCS noted that as a result, customers may be provided a false sense of security when trying to reach 911 via SMS. MetroPCS disagreed that a receipt text would alleviate these concerns because even if a receipt system is set in place by the receiving PSAP, the text receipt will still have to travel back through the same (quite possibly, congested) network to reach the customer – and may be delayed once again. MetroPCS also pointed out that Text-to-911 may result in more false emergency messages since there is no two-way dialogue when the text message is sent. A deluge of text messages without pertinent information will delay necessary emergency response and may delay customers using other alternative means to complete 911 calls, such as wireless voice services.

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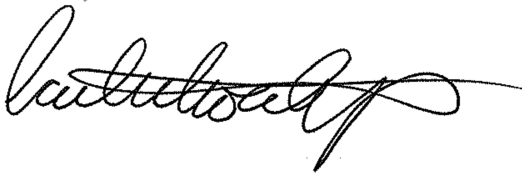
MetroPCS also pointed out that the requirement that 911 calls be completed using any compatible network does not extend to text messaging which means that in the event that a customer's carrier's network is unavailable, it is unlikely that the customer will receive service from any other compatible carrier. MetroPCS reminded the Commission that current text services do not include location information which makes text messaging even less appropriate as a substitute for voice 911 services. MetroPCS stressed that Text-to-911 should not replace voice services, and Commission staff agreed.

MetroPCS also reiterated its support for liability protection for wireless carriers in the event that Text-to-911 is mandated. MetroPCS highlighted the fact that numerous parties would be involved in a Text-to-911 program, and that, coupled with an unstable service such as SMS and a possibly congested network, would necessitate that the wireless carrier be afforded additional liability protection other than what might already be offered at the federal and state level.

Finally, MetroPCS cautioned Commission staff that implementing an interim Text-to-911 program may consume a great deal of resources and time that would be better spent on developing and accelerating deployment of a NG911 system. MetroPCS noted that as a smaller, competitive carrier, it had limited funds and resources to invest in an interim solution, and urged the Staff to reconsider their focus on this topic. Furthermore, MetroPCS reminded the Commission that certain attributes necessary for a successful Text-to-911 program, such as location services, are not fully developed enough for the amount of reliance that will be placed on them, which will provide an additional false sense of security for consumers.

Any questions regarding this notice should be directed to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl W. Northrop', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carl W. Northrop
of TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW PROFESSIONALS PLLC

cc (via email): David Turetsky
Patrick Donovan
Cheryl King
Henning Schulzrinne